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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application of:

Love et al.

Serial No. 09/783,353

Filed February 14, 2001

For **METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
THE DESCALING OF METAL**

Confirmation No. 1080

Examiner: John C. Hong

Group Art Unit: 3726

April 14, 2003

BOX RESPONSES

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, DC 20231

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APR 21 2003

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

With regard to the Office Action mailed December 19, 2002, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 63 as follows:

63. (Amended) A continuous method of descaling a layer of scale on an advancing metal surface without the use of caustic materials, said method comprising:

advancing a metal surface along a predetermined path of travel;

cracking the layer of scale by spraying smooth-edged media under fluid pressure at the surface of advancing metal; and

abrading the cracked layer of scale to remove the scale, thereby forming a descaled metal surface.

Please cancel claim 68 without prejudice to the subject matter thereof.